



Environmental Epidemiology and Toxicology Hazardous Substance Emergency Event Surveillance (HSEES) - Fact Sheet

HSEES is 100% federally funded by the Center for Disease Control (CDC) / Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR). A reduction in funding for this activity would reduce the number of experienced and qualified staff which would result in a decrease in the:

- quality of the data that is recorded by the Louisiana Acute Hazardous Substance Incidents Surveillance and Prevention activity as well as a decrease
- quality of the prevention outreach activities
- quantity of emergency response procedures

An increase in funding could result in the following:

- Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals (LDHH) having an increased role in emergency response activities
- increase in quantity and quality of prevention outreach activities

Objective

Establish and maintain a surveillance system for monitoring hazardous substances incidents as well as identifying vulnerabilities and performing proactive prevention activities related to these vulnerabilities, in order to decrease morbidity and mortality related to these events.

Performance Indicators

1. 7,500 emergency events screened from the Louisiana State Police (LSP)
2. 2,000 emergency events screened from the National Response Center (NRC)
3. 1,000 events entered into the HSEES System
4. Meet ATSDR deadlines for grant application, annual report, and event data entry/completion

Narrative

The mission of HSEES is to establish and maintain a surveillance system for monitoring hazardous substances incidents as well as identifying vulnerabilities and performing proactive prevention activities related to these vulnerabilities. This is done by screening available data sources for information regarding chemical releases throughout the state and entering both the chemical release data and any health effect data into the new database. The new database is then analyzed to identify vulnerabilities. Upon identification of vulnerabilities, proactive prevention activities are developed to target the vulnerabilities.

Activities:

1. Development of a process that ensures that LDHH is notified of hazardous substance emergency events, immediately, but no later than within 48 hours of the occurrence.
2. Further describe/characterize the incident by gathering and entering the information obtained from all sources into the ATSDR web-based surveillance system.
3. Develop a formal process for immediate notification of incidents of public health concern.
4. Establish and maintain appropriate procedures to ensure the timely gathering and entering of the information into a database as prescribed by the surveillance operating procedures.
5. Participate in quality control and quality assurance activities.
6. Obtain state and local data on the production, use, transportation and fate of hazardous substances, vulnerable areas, and hazardous substances releases.
7. Analyze the data, including Geographic Information System (GIS) mapping to identify vulnerabilities in industry and transportation and link surveillance data to community health and environmental databases to identify high risk areas that involve vulnerable populations (e.g., schools) and areas lacking the capacity to handle large health emergencies.
8. Develop partnerships with key agencies and organizations (e.g., labor, industry, environmental) to promote hazard reduction, innovation, and Inherently Safer Technologies (IST) to address prioritized vulnerabilities.
9. Disseminate methods of green chemistry/toxic use reduction and success stories and the economic factors that support such practices.
10. Analyze and interpret data and disseminate lessons learned from responses to significant releases in order to
 - improve emergency response capabilities,
 - enhance hospital preparedness capabilities,
 - prevent future releases,
 - ensure proper response to health emergencies, and
 - mitigate public health impacts of future releases.
11. Provide adequate staffing.

Better Health

This activity supports the state goal of better health because a reduction in the releases of hazardous substances will decrease morbidity and mortality associated with these releases.

By tracking and then analyzing the data collected by the HSEES activity, strategies are developed that reduce morbidity and mortality resulting from future releases of hazardous substances.

How HSEES advances other State Goals:

1. Hurricane Protection and Emergency Preparedness:

- HSEES has agreements with the LSP, the NRC and Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (LDEQ) to receive notifications of hazardous material releases as soon as they are reported. These notifications are then sent to LDHH regional personnel during normal business hours. After reviewing the notification, regional personnel decide if a public health response is required.
- In the event of a chemical release, public health personnel can request GIS maps of the location. These maps show the incident location and areas of concern in the nearby area such as schools and nursing homes. These maps also show population distribution which can be used to identify vulnerable populations. In addition, chemical information can be provided to regional personnel.

2. Natural Resources:

- HSEES tracks the quantity and type of chemical released in a database format
- CFDA Number 93.204, Surveillance of Hazardous Substance Emergency Events (no state match required)
- This program is authorized under Sections 104(i)(1)(E) and (i)(15) of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (CERCLA), as amended by the Superfund Amendment Reauthorization Act of 1986 (SARA); Public Law 99-499, [42 U.S.C. 9604(i)(1)(E) and 9604(i)(15)].
- LA Revised Statutes (RS) 36:258
- RS 40:5
- 8,138 LSP events and 3,500 NRC events screened in calendar year 2008
- 1,019 events eligible for the HSEES database in calendar year 2008
- <http://www.dhh.louisiana.gov/offices/page.asp?id=205&detail=5748>